Achieving Outstanding Alabama Water Designation for the Magnolia River through Citizen Action

Dr. Bill Deutsch
Alabama Water Watch
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National Water Quality Monitoring Conference and River Rally Bridge Day

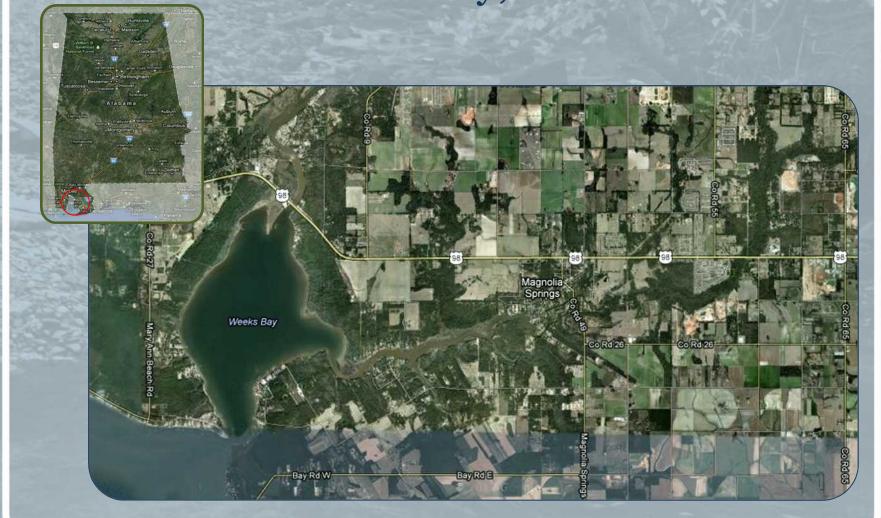
May 4, 2012

Portland, Oregon





Magnolia River Watershed Baldwin County, Alabama



Magnolia River Watershed



- o The Magnolia River Watershed is 41 sq. miles...about 4 miles of navigable stream
- o The river flows to Weeks Bay, an Outstanding National Resource Water
- o The river is primarily freshwater, but is tidally influenced in its lower reaches

Original Situation



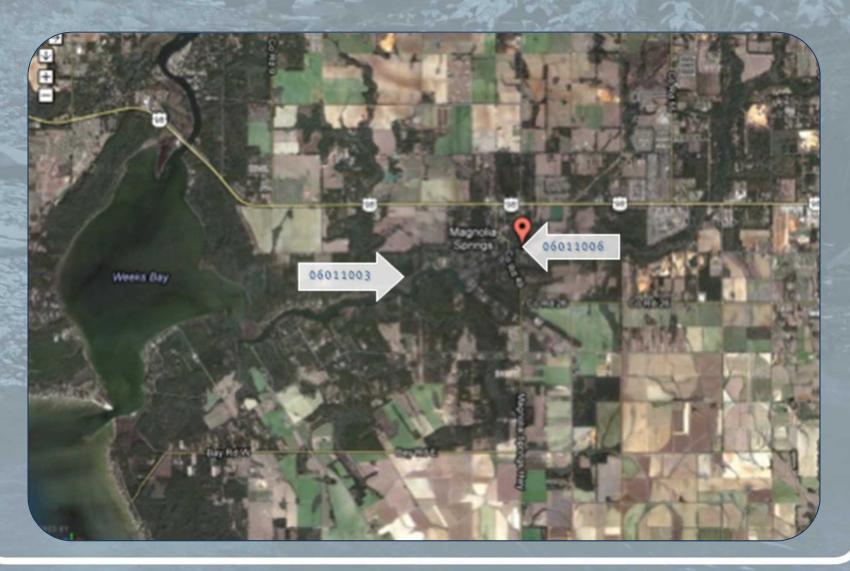
- Low population
- o U.S. Mail delivery by boat
- o Quiet, scenic, historic
- o Primarily forested and agriculture
- o Development impacts increasing

Drivers for Collaboration and Change

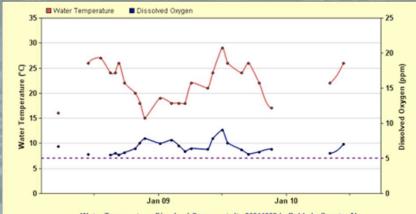


- Consultant Group Study
- o OAW recommendations to Town Council
- o Contact with AWW
- Monitoring Plan established
- Network of technical and political support
- Public Hearing at ADEM

Two Sample Site Locations



Sample Site 06011003



Water Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen at site 06011003 in Baldwin County, AL Magnolia River (Watershed) 27 samples

Latitude: 30.397822 N, Longitude: 87.775633 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC12: 12): 031602050308

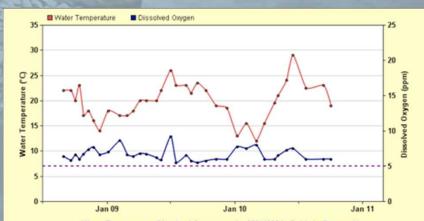
... 5 ppm minimum Dissolved Oxygen required for Fish and Wildlife Classification

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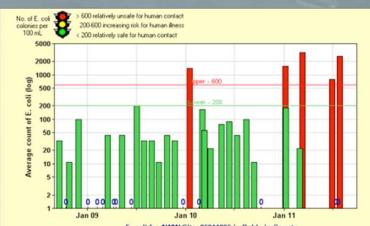
E. coli for AWW Site: 06011003 in Baldwin County
Magnolia River, located in the Mobile watershed, No. of Samples: 18
Latitude: 30.397822 N. Longitude: 87.775633 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC11): 031602050308

Sample Site 06011006



Water Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen at site 06011006 in Baldwin County, AL Magnolia River (Watershed) 35 samples Latitude: 30.399839 N, Longitude: 87.767961 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC12: 12): 031602050308

... 5 ppm minimum Dissolved Oxygen required for Fish and Wildlife Classification



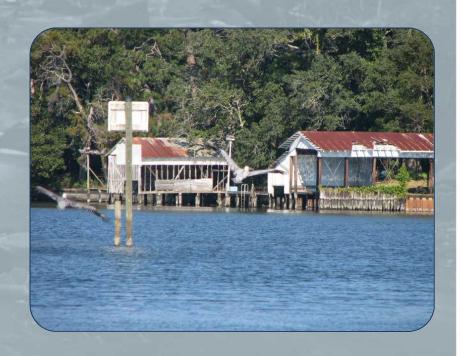
E. coli for AWW Site: 06011006 in Baldwin County
Magnolia River, located in the Mobile watershed, No. of Samples: 40
Latitude: 30,399839 N, Longitude: 87.767961 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC11): 031602050308

Involvement

Government

Market

Civil Society

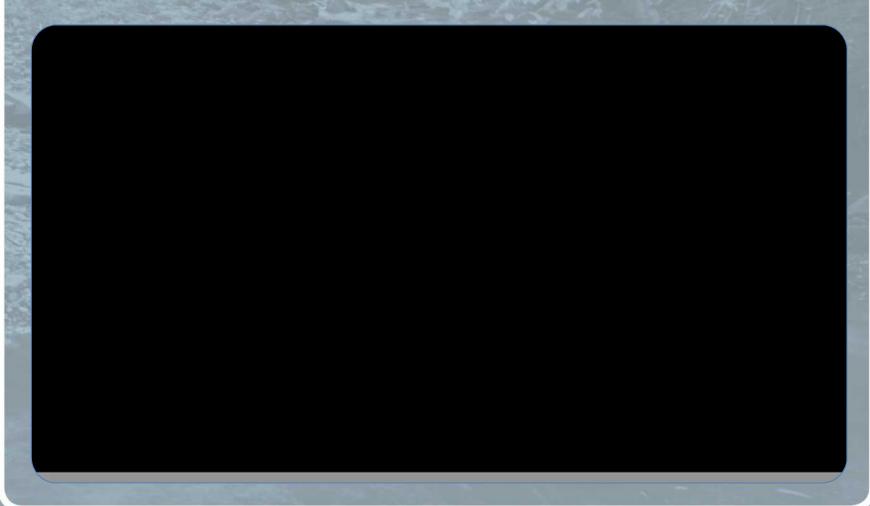


Involvement



- o Town Council
- Watershed Residents
- o AWW program and partner groups
- Other environmental organizations
- o County Government
- o Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- o Environmental Management Commission

Excerpt from the AWW Living Downstream Video





Lessons Learned



- o Progressive Local Governments see Rivers as Amenities
- o River Protection can Start with a Plan that includes Volunteer Monitoring
- o River Conditions and Trends can be Determined by Citizen Volunteers
- o Good Water Data combined with Good Political Networking is Powerful
- o Success Breeds Success (e.g. Wolf Bay Watershed Watch OAW)
- o OAW is a source of Community Pride and Inspiration for other Groups



LOVE THY DOWNSTREAM NEIGHBOR

alabamawaterwatch.org